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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 – 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Erickson in U.S. Patent 4,388,012.

Applicant has amended claim 1 of the application to recite the invention more clearly. In particular, the expression of "fitting the lockable articulated cable contact connector to an end of an electrical conductor" has been recited as a positive limitation by providing element (c) which recites "means to fit said lockable articulated cable contact connector to an end of an electrical conductor" in response to the Examiner's comments and reference to *In Re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection based on Erickson, applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner's interpretation of Erickson as disclosing a "releasable connector mount lock means configurable between a lock configuration wherein said interconnection member and said lockable articulated cable contact connector are maintained in a locked position relative to each other and an unlocked configuration permitting relative rotation in three dimensions between said lockable articulated cable contact connector and said interconnection member as recited in element (d) of the present application, appears to be a misinterpretation of the Erickson disclosure. While Erickson does disclose an articulated ball and stud connector, Erickson does not provide a locking mechanism for the connector. The lock referred to by Erickson is to lock the collar 18 to the stud mount 46 by means of tab 50. However, the Erickson interconnection apparatus does not lock the swivel connector to the ball 42. The lock means recited as element (d) of claim 1 is not found in the teachings of Erickson. Consequently, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 as claim 1 recites a locking apparatus outside the scope of the teachings of Erickson.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 6 and 7 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph as being vague and indefinite by providing the phrase "at least one" recited in claim 1,

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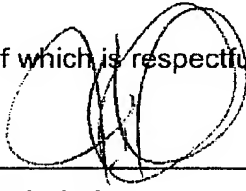
while each of the dependent claims 2, 6 and 7 include the term "each" meaning more than one. While applicant is of the view that "each" adds clarification to the claim in that any instance or appearance of a lockable articulated cable contact connector in claims 2, 6 and 7, these claims have nonetheless been amended to remove the word "each" in view of the Examiner's comments.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 5, 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

In view of the amendments entered by the applicant and comments above, applicant believes that the current application is in condition for allowance and favourable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are further concerns with the application, applicant's agent respectfully requests the Examiner to call to discuss any outstanding remaining concerns to enable the application to proceed expeditiously.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



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